

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301786 TOSEC 320231

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNMR SHAPE P 111400Z DEC 76 ACTION ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE SECDEF

QUOTE S E C R E T ALO 76-110 EXDIS

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR AMB KUBISCH, SECRETARY KISSINGER

AND SSECRETARY RUMSFELD FROM GENERAL HAIG

REF: ATHENS 13115

SUBJECT: GREEK PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX 77

1. (S) AT THE RECENT NPG MEETING IN LONDON, GREEK MOD AVEROFF, AT THE ADVICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, APPROACHED ME INFORMALLY, INDICATING THE GREEKS WERE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN WINTEX 77 PROVIDED THERE WAS A MODIFICATION IN THE COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW ATHENS TO BYPASS IZMIR AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO AFSOUTH. I TOLD HIM THAT SUCH AN ALTERATION COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. AVEROFF SEEMED PERTURBED AT MY RESPONSE.
2. (S) SUBSEQUENTLY, I WAS TOLD ON 26 NOV BY THE NEW GREEK MILREP, ADM PSALIDAS, THAT ATHENS NOW AGREED WITH MY INTERPRETATION AND DID NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN WINTEX. PSALIDAS ADDED THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EXERCISE WAS NOW THE OFFICIAL GREEK POSITION. THE PSALIDAS COMMENTS WERE PASSED ON BY ME TO SYG LUNS AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THE GREEK PERMREP, AMB LAGACOS, HAD TOLD LUNS AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH PASLIDAS THAT A DECISION NOT TO PLAY IN

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 301786 TOSEC 320231

WINTEX HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN BY ATHENS. IN ORDER TO CLARI-

FY THESE MIXED SIGNALS, LAGACOS SUGGESTED TO LUNS THAT I CONVEY FORMALLY TO MOD AVEROFF MY OBJECTION TO THE ALTERED COMMAND ARRANGEMENT. LAGACOS ADDED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE THAT GREECE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN WINTEX. AVEROFF WAS SO INFORMED BY ME IN WRITING ON 9 DECEMBER THROUGH THE GREEK NMR AT SHAPE.

3. (S) NEITHER SYG LUNS NOR SIR PETER HILL-NORTON WAS IN FAVOR OF THE GREEK PROPOSAL WITH ITS CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX 77. THEY AGREE WITH MY POSITION THAT GREEK PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX UTILIZING A MODIFIED COMMAND ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN VIEW OF THE EXISTING SITUATION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THE ULTIMATE COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA. WE ARE NOW AWAITING THE PREDICTED REPLY THAT GREECE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.

4. (S) THE REAL MOTIVATION HERE COULD BE MORE MISCHIEF MAKING CONCERNING THE TROUBLESOME ISSUE OF A MODIFIED COMMAND ARRANGEMENT RATHER THAN ONE OF PURE GOOD WILL (REFERENCE THE PAPACONSTINOU TO ATTACHE EXCHANGE). ACCEPTANCE OF THE ATHENS PROPOSAL WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TRIGGER IMMEDIATE TURKISH INSISTENCE ON SIMILAR PERMANENT MODIFIED COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR FORCES ALONG NATION LINES. IT COULD ALSO TRIGGER PRE-MATURELY A ROW NOT ONLY WITH ATHENS BUT ALSO WITH ANKARA FOCUSED ON THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF LANDSOUTHEAST AND THE CREATION OF TWO SEPARATE NATIONAL COMMANDS, A MATTER ALREADY RAISED WITH ME RECENTLY BY GENERAL SANCAR. IN A VERY REAL SENSE, ALL OF THIS WOULD BE A MOST UN-DESIRABLE PREDEEDENT PRIOR TO THE FORTHCOMING DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ULTIMATE COMMAND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GREECE AND NATO.

4. (C) I STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE AWAIT AVEROFF'S REPLY AND BE GUIDED BY VIRGIL'S COUNSEL.
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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